[18th May 1954

Notification of jaggery as a commercial crop in South Arcot district.

* 913 *Q.*—Sri K. PARTHASARATHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to notify jaggery as a commercial crop under section 3 of the Madras Commercial Crops Market Act, 1933, in the South Arcot district?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no such proposal before the Government at present. The Government are advised that jaggery cannot be notified as a commercial crop under the Madras Commercial Crops Market Act."

8-50 a.m. Sri K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Are the Government aware of the widespread malpractices indulged in by merchants engaged in jaggery trade and will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state what the difficulty is in notifying jaggery as a commercial crop under the Madras Commercial Crops Market Act? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is quite obvious that jaggery is not a crop but a product of a crop and therefore it cannot come under the Commercial Crops Market Act."

Issue of licences to the " Neera " tappers in Salem.

* 914 *Q.*—Sri T. S. ARDHANARI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of licences given to the ' Neera ' tappers in 1953 and the number of applicants for licences in the Salem district; and

(*b*) the number of cases of prosecution for unlicensed neera tapping in Salem district in 1953?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) Licences for tapping ' Neera ' for consumption as beverage are not issued in this district. Licences for tapping sweet toddy from palmyrah trees for manufacture of jaggery are issued for the period commencing from 1st October to 30th September of each year. The number of licences issued for the period 1st October 1952 to 30th September 1953 is 11,260 in this district. The number of licences issued from 1st October 1953 to the end of February 1954 is 13,007.

" (*b*) The number of cases of prosecution for unlicensed neera tapping during 1953 is 482."

Sri T. S. ARDHANARI :—" பதனி இறக்கும் தொழிலாளிகளுக்கு காலாகாலத்தில் சர்க்கார் லைசென்ஸ் கொடுக்காததின் காரணமாக அவர்களுக்கு லைசென்ஸ் இல்லாமலேயே மரம் ஏறக்கூடிய நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டுவிட்டது என்பது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமா ? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" In certain cases, there might have been some delay, but generally in almost all cases, licences have been issued in time."